

**Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
4/19/2016**

In attendance: Committee Members Anderson, Belyea, Coughlin, Hancock, Haskell, Kelley, Kutsch, Pyles, Reale, Sharkansky, and Smallwood and Town Accountant Nickerson.

Chairman Pyles called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

*Questions from the Public on Items Not on the Agenda:* None

*Hingham Harbor Development – Wharf Engineering Study*

Guests who attended the meeting for this topic included Bill Reardon, Chairman of the Hingham Harbor Development Committee (HHDC), Deirdre Anderson (HHDC), and Ed Johnson (Bathing Beach Trustee). Prior to discussing the wharf study, Bill Reardon addressed a question about Article 29 (Bathing Beach Bathhouse and Refreshment Stand). It is possible that the building could be located on land controlled by the Bathing Beach Trustees or on land controlled by the Selectmen. The State Legislature will have to approve a long-term lease regardless of the location, so Susan Murphy (real estate counsel) is working on a change in the language of the recommended motion to include both Lot 50 and Lot 51.

Bill Reardon provided an update on the wharf engineering study that was authorized by Article 31 at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting. (\$175K of the \$870K was allocated to study the wharves.) He presented the documents that were sent previously to AdCom members via email.

The engineering company Beals and Thomas examined all the Town-owned wharves and sea walls in the Harbor and determined that they are in varying states of disrepair, with the exception of Whitney Wharf, which was repaired in the 1990's. More information is needed before prioritization of the work can occur. It will be necessary to find out what is underneath the structure of each wharf. Also, the Town must choose between rebuilding the wharves at their current height and making them higher, in anticipation of rising sea levels. Bill mentioned that the negotiations on the Barnes Wharf 30-year lease are ongoing between the Town and the Hingham Maritime Center. The current condition of this wharf adds complexity to the situation.

Beals and Thomas recommended that the Town focus on the Town Pier, the Mobil Station parcel, and Barnes Wharf, in that order. It will be very costly to rebuild/repair the wharves. Potential funding sources for this work are the Seaport Bond Council, the State Department of Fisheries, and the Town of Hingham.

During the question and answer session, AdCom members asked about the restructuring of Route 3A and the impact on the wharves. Tom Pyles advised members to be as knowledgeable as possible about the wharf situation, as this issue may come back to AdCom in the future, and funding will be needed. It was noted that there will be a lot of large projects in front of the Town in the next few years competing with this project.

**Warrant Articles**

*Article 13 (M) – Transfer Funds to the Reserve Fund*

Supplementary funds are needed for the Reserve Fund in order to pay Town bills through 6/30/2016. Sue Nickerson explained the estimated upcoming reserve fund transfers and referred to the List of Reserve Fund Transfers in FY2016 to Date (in folders). Tom Pyles recommended that the Town transfer from available funds the sum of \$781,436 to the Town's Reserve Fund for use during Fiscal Year 2016. AdCom members approved this motion by a vote of 10-0-0.

Note: A brief Fund Balance update followed the discussion of Article 13. With the approval of this Article, the Unassigned Fund Balance ratio will continue to be in excess of 20% but not significantly.

#### *Article 21 (FF) – Town Administrator Special Act*

State House Counsel has recommended that the phrase “but not require” be removed from the Recommended Motion for Article 21. The first sentence of the Motion would read, “That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition...” (The same change may be necessary for Articles 24, 28, and 29.) Dan Coughlin moved that we amend the Recommended Motion for Article 21 by deleting the words as specified. AdCom members approved this motion by a vote of 9-1-0. Tom Belyea was the dissenting vote.

#### *Preparation for Town Meeting*

AdCom members reviewed the WASS and determined who would speak on behalf of each Article at Town Meeting. Budget and committee liaisons should be prepared to speak at Town Meeting, if necessary. Tom Pyles announced that the Moderator’s Meeting (final prep) will occur at 1 PM on Sunday 4/24 at Town Hall. The AdCom will meet at 6:00 PM on 4/25, immediately before Town Meeting, to vote on any revised Recommended Motions.

#### *Approval of Minutes*

The minutes of the regular meeting on March 3, 2016 were approved as amended by a vote of 9-0-1. Dan Coughlin abstained, as he was not in attendance at the 3/3 meeting.

The minutes of the regular meeting on March 8, 2016 were approved as amended by a vote of 8-0-2. Tom Belyea and Donna Smallwood abstained, as they were not in attendance at the 3/8 meeting.

The minutes of the regular meeting on March 22, 2016 were approved as amended by a vote of 8-0-2. Linda Kutsch and Eric Haskell abstained, as they were not in attendance at the 3/22 meeting.

#### *Miscellaneous Items*

Tom Pyles congratulated Sue Nickerson (and Ted Alexiades) for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. They have received this award for the past 20 years (FY1996 – FY2015).

Tom Pyles noted that he received a letter (addressed to the Advisory Committee) concerning the Lehner Property. Patricia and Marco Pierce wrote in support of the land purchase.

The annual Advisory Committee Party is scheduled for Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Linda Kutsch. Each AdCom member is requested to contribute \$120 to the festivities. Party organizers are Dave Anderson, Eryn Kelley, and Chris Reale.

*Matters Not Anticipated within 48 Hours:* None

#### *Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM by a vote of 10-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy N. Hancock  
Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at this Meeting:

Agenda for AdCom Meeting of 4/19/2016  
Draft Minutes from 3/3/2016 AdCom Meeting  
Draft Minutes from 3/8/2016 AdCom Meeting  
Draft Minutes from 3/22/2016 AdCom Meeting  
Warrant Article Status Summary as of 4/4/2016  
List of Reserve Fund Transfers in FY2016 to Date  
Article 13 (M) – Transfer Funds to the Reserve Fund

Tom Pyles provided the Secretary with a letter to the Advisory Committee from Patricia and Marco Pierce in support of purchasing the Lehner Property.

AdCom members received several documents from Bill Reardon via email prior to the 4/19 meeting. These documents pertained to the wharf engineering study.